



Docket No. FIREP9910112US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re **PATENT** application of:

Applicant: Paul A. Merendino

Application No.: 09/778,339

For: **METHOD FOR CONTROLLING PNEUMATIC TIRE PRESSURES  
DURING DYNAMIC VEHICLE TEST PROCEDURES**

Filing Date: February 7, 2001

Examiner: Marissa L. Ferguson

Art Unit: 3617

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

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**RECEIVED**  
OCT 30 2002  
**GROUP 3600**

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JULY 18, 2002**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In view of the following remarks, further and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,278,363 to Bezek in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,582,108 to Markow. Bezek is directed towards notifying a driver of an under-inflated condition in a "run-flat" tire so that he/she can seek appropriate maintenance and repair.<sup>1</sup> To this end, the Bezek system/method comprises a pressure sensor 12 that provides pressure data associated with a

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1. A vehicle operator may be unaware that a run-flat tire has lost its air pressure from visual inspection because of the construction of the run-flat tire. The run-flat tire generally handles adequately and is greatly superior in handling characteristics in comparison to a conventional flat tire that has lost air pressure. However, a vehicle operator may be unaware in the deterioration of the handling characteristics of a vehicle due to the loss of air pressure in the run-flat tire.